

THE
WOMEN'S
PETITION
AGAINST
COFFEE.

REPRESENTING
TO
PUBLICK CONSIDERATION

THE
Grand INCONVENIENCIES accruing
to their SEX from the Excessive
Use of that Drying, Enfeebling
LIQUOR.

Presented to the Right Honorable the
Keepers of the Liberty of *VENUS*.

By a Well-willer

London, Printed 1674.







To the Right Honorable the Keepers
of the Liberties of *Venus*; The
Worshipful Court of *Female-Assi-*
sistants, &c.

*The Humble Petition and Address of se-
veral Thousands of Buxome Good-
Women, Languishing in Extremity
of Want.*

SHEWETH,

THAT since 'tis Reckon'd amongst the Glories of our Native Country, To be *A Paradise for Women*: The same in our Apprehensions can consist in nothing more than the brisk *Activity* of our men, who in former Ages were justly esteemed the *Ablest Performers* in Christendome; But to our unspeakable Grief, we find of late a very sensible *Decay* of that true *Old English Vigour*; our *Gallants* being every way so *Frenchified*, that they are become meer *Cock-sparrows*, fluttering things that come on *ss ss*, with a world of *Fum-*

But are not able to stand to it, and in the very first Charge fall down flat before us. Never did Men wear greater breeches, or carry less in them of any Mettle whatsoever. There was a glorious Dispensation ('twas surely in the Golden Age) when *Lusty Laddes* of seven or eight hundred years old, got Sons and Daughters; and we have read, how a Prince of Spain was forced to make a Law, that Men should not Repeat the *Grand Kindness* to their Wives, above *NINE* times in a night: But Alas! Alas! Those forward Days are gone, The dull Lubbers want a spur now, rather than a bridle: being so far from doing any works of *Supererrection* that we find them not capable of performing those Devouts which their Duty, and our Expectations Exact.

The Occasion of which Insufferable Disaster, after a serious Enquiry, and Discussion of the Point by the Learned of the Faculty, we can Attribute to nothing more than the Excessive-use of that Newfangled, Abominable, Heathenish Liquor called *COFFEE*, which Riffling Nature of her Choicest Treasures, and Drying up the Radical Moisture, has so Eunuched our Husbands, and Crippled our more kind Gallants, that they are become as Impotent, as Age, and as unfruitful as those Desarts whence that unhappy Berry is said to be brought.

For the continual sipping of this pittifull drink is enough to bewitch Men of two and twenty, and tie up the Copice-point without a Charm. It renders them that use it as Lean as Famine, as Rivvel'd as Envy, or an old meager Hagg over-ridden by an Incubus. They come from it with nothing moist but their snotty Noses, nothing stiffe but their Joints, nor standing but their Ears: They pretend 'twill keep them Waking, but we find by scurvy Experience, they sleep

sleep quietly enough after it. A Betrothed Queen might trust her self a bed with one of them, without the nice Caution of a Sword between them: nor can all the Art we use revive them from this Lethargy, so unfit they are for Action, that like young Train-band-men when called upon Duty, their Ammunition is wanting; peradventure they Present, but cannot give Fire, or at least do but *flab in the Pan*, instead of doing Execution.

Nor let any Doating Superstitious Cato's shake their Goatish Beards, and tax us of *Immodesty* for this Declaration, since 'tis a publick Grievance, and cries aloud for Reformation. *Weight and Measure*, 'tis well known, should go throughout the world, and there is no torment like Famithment. Experience witnesses our Damage, and Necessity (which easily supersedes all the Laws of Decency) justifies our complaints: For can any Woman of Sense or Spirit eudure with Patience, that when priviledg'd by Legal Ceremonies, she approaches the Nuptial Bed, expecting a Man that with Sprightly Embraces, should Answer the Vigour of her Flames, she on the contrary should only meet *A Bedful of Bones*, and hug a meager useless Corpse rendred as sapless as a Kixe, and dryer than a *Pumice-Stone*, by the perpetual Fumes of Tobacco, and bewitching effects of this most pernicious *C O F F E E*, whereby Nature is Enfeebled, the Off-spring of our Mighty Ancestors Dwindled into a Succession of Apes and Pignies; and

The Age of Man

Now Cramp't into an Inch, that was a Span.

Nor is this (though more than enough) All the ground of our Complaint: For besides, we have reason to apprehend and grow Jealous, That Men by frequenting these Stygian Tap-bones will usurp on our Prerogative of Tat-

ling,

ling, and soon learn to exceed us in Talkativeness : a Quality wherein our Sex has ever Claimed preheminence : For here like so many Frels in a puddle, they sup muddy water, and murmur insignificant notes till half a dozen of them out-babble an equal number of us at a Gossiping, talking all at once in Confusion, and running from point to point as insensibly, and as swiftly, as ever the Ingenious Pole-wheel could run divisions on the Base-viol ; yet in all their prattle every one abounds in his own sense, as stiffly as a Quaker at the late Barbican Dispute, and submits to the Reasons of no other mortal : so that there being neither Moderator nor Rules observ'd, you may as soon fill a Quart pot with syllogismes, as profit by their Discourses.

Certainly our Countrymens pallates are become as Fanatical as their Brains ; how else is't possible they should Apostatize from the good old primitive way of Ale-drinking, to run a whoring after such variety of destructive Foreign Liquors, to trifle away their time, scald their Chops, and spend their Money, all for a little base, black, thick, nasty, bitter, stinking, nauseous Puddle-water : Yet (as all Witches have their Charms) so this ugly Turkish Enchantress by certain Invisible VVyses attracts both Rich and Poor ; so that those that have scarce Twopence to buy their Children Bread, must spend a penny each evening in this Insipid Stuff : Nor can we send one of our Husbands to Call a Midwife, or borrow a Glister-pipe, but he must stay an hour by the way drinking his two Dishes, & two Pipes.

At these Houses (as at the Springs in Afric) meet all sorts of Animals, whence follows the production of a thousand Monster Opinions and Absurdities ; yet for being dangerous to Government, we dare be their Compurgators, as well knowing them to be too tame and too talkative

kative to make any desperate Polititians : For though they may now and then destroy a Fleet, or kill ten thousand of the French, — more than all the Confederates can do, yet this is still in their politick Capacities, for by their personal valour they are scarce fit to be of the Life-guard to a Cherry-tree : And therefore, though they frequently have hot Contests about most Important Subjects ; as what colour the Red Sea is of ; whether the Great Turk be a Lutheran or a Calvinist ; who *Cain's Father in Law* was, &c. yet they never fight about them with any other save our Weapons, the Tongue.

Some of our Sots pretend tippling of this boiled Soot cures them of being Drunk; but we have reason rather to conclude it makes them so, because we find them not able to stand after it : 'Tis at best but a kind of Earthing a Fox to hunt him more eagerly afterward : A rare method of good-husbandry, to enable a man to be drunk three times a day ! Just such a Remedy for Drunkenness, as the Popes allowing of Stews, is a means to prevent Fornication : The Coffee-house being in truth, only a Pimp to the Tavern, a relishing sop preparative to a fresh debauch : For when people have swill'd themselves with a morning draught of more Ale than a Brewers horse can carry, hither they come for a pennyworth of Settle-brain, where they are sure to meet know lazy pragmatical Companions, that resort here to prattle of News, that they neither understand, nor are concerned in ; and after an hours impertinent Chat, begin to consider a Bottle of Claret would do excellent well before Dinner ; whereupon to the Bush they all march together, till every one of them is as Drunk as a Drum, and then back again to the Coffe-house to drink themselves sober ; where three or four dishes a piece, and smoaking, makes their throats as dry as Mount *Etna* enflam'd with Brimstone ; so that they must away to the next Red Lattice to quench them with a dozen or two of Ale;

Ale; which at last growing auseous, one of them begins to extol the blood of the Grape, what rare Lagoon, and Racy Canary may be had at the Miser: Saist thou so? cries another, Let's then go and replenish there, with our Earthen Vessels: So once more they troop to the Sack-shop till they are drunker than before; and then by a retrograde motion, stagger back to Soberize themselves with Coffee: Thus like Tennis Balls between two Rackets, the Pops our Husbands are bandied to and fro all day between the Coffee-house and Tavern, whilst we poor Souls sit moepeing all alone till Twelve at night, and when at last they come to bed snoakt like a Westphalia Hogs-head we have no more comfort of them, than from a shotten Herring or a dried Bulrush; which forces us to take up this Lamentation and sing;

*Tom Farthing, Tom Farthing, where hast thou been, Tom Farthing?
Twelve a Clock e're you come in, Two a Clock e're you begin, And
then at last can do nothing: Would make a Woman weary, weary,
weary, would make a Woman weary, &c.*

Wherefore the Premises considered, and to the end that our Just Rights may be restored, and all the Antient Priviledges of our Sex preserved inviolable; That our Husbands may give us some other Testimonies of their being Men, besides their Beards and wearing of empay Pantaloons: That they no more run the hazard of being Cuckol'd by Dildo's: But returning to the good old strengthening Liquors of our Forefathers; that Natures Exchequer may once again be replenisht, and a Race of Lusty Hero's begot, able by their Atchievements, to equal the Glories of our Ancestors.

We Humbly Pray, That you our Trusty Patrons would improve your Interest, that henceforth the Drinking COFFEE may on severe penalties be forbidden to all Persons under the Age of Threescore; and that instead thereof, Lusty nappy Beer, Cock-Ale, Cordial Canaries, Restoring Malago's, and Back-recruiting Cloches be Recommended to General Use, throughout the Utopian Territories.

In hopes of which Glorious Reformation, your Petitioners shall readily Prostrate themselves, and ever Pray, &c.

F I N . I S .